



## **ADVISORY OPINION # 32**

**FORMULATED:** January 2001

**REVISED:** November 2012, September 2002, July 2007

**REVIEWED:** July 2005, May 2006

**QUESTION:** Is it within the role and scope of the licensed practical nurse (LPN) to perform additional acts: as (1) Charge Nurse or (2) in an Intensive Care Unit?

The South Carolina Board of Nursing acknowledges that it is within the role and scope of the LPN to perform additional acts according to specific criteria. Listed below are additional acts that may be performed by the selected LPN as designated by the registered nurse (RN) licensed physician or licensed dentist.

1. Charge Duty

The selected LPN may function as a Charge Nurse in a skilled care facility or intermediate care facility under the supervision of a RN who is available on call.

2. Intensive Care Units

The selected LPN performing additional acts in an intensive care unit shall be under the direct supervision of a RN who is present and in charge of the unit.

If the nursing department determines that implementation is in order, the appropriate policies, procedures and protocols should be developed. Protocols must specify qualifications, special education, and training regarding the role of the selected LPN to include didactic and clinical competencies.

This statement is an advisory opinion of the Board of Nursing as to what constitutes competent and safe nursing practice.